UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/834
29 December 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 42

THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Letter dated 28 December 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward herewith the text of a statement by the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, on the occasion of the Day of Solidarity with the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina, observed on 27 December 1993 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could kindly have the text of the present letter and the statement circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 42.

(Signed) Kamran NIAZ
Acting Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Statement by the Prime Minister of Pakistan on the occasion of the Day of Solidarity with the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 27 December 1993

1. As Pakistan today joins the other members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in observing the Day of Solidarity with the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina, I would like to assure them that they will continue to have our firm and unwavering support, bilaterally as well as in international forums, in meeting the challenges with which their country is confronted at present. We have been following the tragic events in Bosnia with a deep sense of anguish and distress and admire the fortitude and courage that the Bosnian people have shown against heavy odds. We will continue to stand by them in their struggle against external aggression and in their effort to secure an honourable and just settlement of the conflict. We stand ready to participate in the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) for Bosnia. We have accepted with open arms some of the Bosnian refugees who were compelled to leave Croatia earlier this year. They are welcome to stay with us as honoured guests as long as conditions in Bosnia prevent them from returning to their homeland. I would also like to take this opportunity to call upon the people of Pakistan to contribute generously to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

2. Bosnia has been the victim of external aggression, genocide and ethnic cleansing. The tragedy in Bosnia has been further aggravated by the failure of the international community to take effective measures to bring these to a halt. We deeply deplore the failure to exempt Bosnia from the United Nations arms embargo, which has deprived it of the means of self-defence, a right guaranteed by the Charter of the United Nations to every Member State. We also urge the international community to use all necessary means to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches all those in need as they face the rigours of a harsh winter.

3. The decision of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to observe the Day of Solidarity is highly commendable. As Chairman of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, Pakistan would call upon the Member States to extend all possible assistance to Bosnia.

4. Pakistan would like to see the perpetrators of the crimes of genocide, ethnic cleansing and serious violations of human rights brought to justice. We are pleased that a United Nations war crimes tribunal has been constituted. We are also honoured that a judge from Pakistan is a member of this Tribunal. Pakistan would strongly urge all States Members of the United Nations to extend their full cooperation to the Tribunal so that it may fulfil its mandate.